



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

### **COVID-19 4/8 Update**

#### **Global**

Total cases – 1,452,378

Total deaths – 83,615

#### **United States**

Positive Tests – 401,166 (up 9% from prior day)

% Positive Tests – 24% (up 1% from prior day)

Total # Tests – 2,079,943 (up 7% from prior day)

Total deaths –12,936 (up 18% from prior day)

#### **Administration**

- **The Treasury Department** is asking Congress for \$250 billion more to [aid small businesses](#), and Secretary Steven Mnuchin said he expects the House and Senate to act as soon as this week.
  - Businesses have rushed to tap the \$350 billion Paycheck Protection Program that was part of the massive \$2.2 trillion stimulus passed by Congress in response to the economic crisis spawned by the coronavirus pandemic.
- **President Trump** says he would “love to see a payroll tax cut” as part of a coronavirus relief package.
  - Payroll tax cut gets money into the hands of small businesses and people “immediately,” Trump says at White House briefing
- **The White House** is developing plans to get the U.S. economy back in action that depend on testing far more Americans for the coronavirus than has been possible to date, according to people familiar with the matter.
  - The effort would likely begin in smaller cities and towns in states that haven’t yet been heavily hit by the virus. Cities such as New York, Detroit, New Orleans and other places the president has described as “hot spots” would remain shuttered.
  - “We’re looking at the concept where we open sections of the country and we’re also looking at the concept where you open up everything,” Trump told Sean Hannity of Fox News last night.
  - Larry Kudlow, the director of the National Economic Council, said on Fox News that reopening might begin within four to eight weeks.
- **Treasury Sec. Steven Mnuchin** says the Senate plans to pass more loan rescue funds on Thursday and the House on Friday.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- **Mnuchin** speaks at White House event with President Trump and bank executives
- The **Trump administration's** plan to reimburse hospitals for treating uninsured patients with Covid-19 could consume more than 40% of the \$100 billion fund Congress authorized to help hospitals, the Kaiser Family Foundation said Tuesday.
- **President Trump** says SBA has processed more than \$70b in small business rescue loans so far, and he is seeking another \$250b for the small business loan program.
  - Administration aiming for “substantial increase” and are “in talks to supplement the fund,” Trump tells reporters ahead of meeting with bank executives on the SBA loan program
- **Anthony Fauci** says the start of a turnaround in the fight against the virus could come after this week.
  - The Trump administration is discussing how to reopen the economy but “that doesn’t mean we’ll do it right now,” Fauci says
- The **Federal Reserve** will launch a lending program this week for **mid-sized businesses** hurt by the coronavirus, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said in a CNBC interview.
  - Congress directed the Fed to create the facility as part of its \$2.2 trillion economic rescue package signed into law last month.
  - The so-called main street lending facility is for companies with more than 500 employees that are disqualified from small business loans and too small for federal loans reserved for larger companies.
- The **White House coronavirus task force** will give parallel telephone briefings to House Democrats and Republicans today, according to House aides. Similar briefings are scheduled for senators tomorrow. The briefings are expected to be headed by Vice President Mike Pence and Anthony Fauci, director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases.
  - Trump will participate in a call at 1:45 p.m. with state, local and tribal leaders on the coronavirus response, according to his daily schedule. The president will then hold a call with faith leaders at 2:30 p.m.
- The White House will hold a **Coronavirus Task Force** press briefing today at 5 p.m.
- **President Donald Trump** and **Dr. Anthony Fauci** on Tuesday discussed the disproportionate impact the coronavirus is having on African Americans.
  - “We’re actively engaging on the problem of increased impacts -- this is a real problem and it’s showing up very strongly in our data -- on the African American community. And we’re doing everything in our power to address this challenge.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

It's a tremendous challenge. It's terrible," Trump said during a White House press briefing from the coronavirus task force.

- **President Trump** renewed his objections Wednesday to the expansion of voting by mail, claiming it doesn't benefit Republicans "for whatever reason," as calls mounted from Democrats to move in that direction in response to the coronavirus outbreak.
  - "Republicans should fight very hard when it comes to statewide mail-in voting," the president tweeted. "Democrats are clamoring for it. Tremendous potential for voter fraud, and for whatever reason, doesn't work out well for Republicans"
- **Trump** yesterday praised some of the country's largest financial firms for pledging to take new steps to help small businesses disrupted by the coronavirus. Trump heralded their plans as he hosted a video conference with leaders of banks including **Goldman Sachs, Bank of America, Citigroup, and JPMorgan Chase**. The participants, top executives from the five biggest U.S. banks and two of the largest payment networks, touted their efforts to help affected businesses and consumers -- pointing to capital devoted to small business loans, an assortment of waived fees, and loans and grants to community development financial institutions. Still, lenders reported some glitches in connecting to the Small Business Administration to get loans approved for small businesses
- **Customs and Border Protection** is making it harder for employees to take time off during the coronavirus pandemic because of vague claims about Border Patrol needing support, according to the union representing CBP officers.
  - The policy change would put workers at risk, National Treasury Employees Union national President Anthony Reardon wrote [in a letter](#) to acting Department of Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf and acting CBP Commissioner Mark Morgan, which POLITICO reviewed.
- The **Trump administration** plans to block **Iran's** request for a \$5 billion **International Monetary Fund** loan to fight the coronavirus pandemic, arguing that the regime has plenty of money and wouldn't qualify for the loan regardless, according to a senior administration official
- **Trump** said he is considering putting a "hold" on U.S. funding for the **World Health Organization** after the agency "blew it" by failing to sound the alarm sooner about the virus. "I'm not saying I'm going to do it, but we're going to look at it," Trump said at a White House briefing yesterday.
  - **Congress** allocated about \$123 million to the WHO for fiscal 2020. Earlier in the briefing Trump called the Geneva-based international body "very China centric." He added that the WHO was wrong to advise against the travel restrictions that



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

were imposed on China earlier this year. “They are always on the side of China, but we fund it,” Trump said. “So we want to look into it.”

- The **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services** announced the first contract for ventilator production to General Motors under the Defense Production Act.
  - GM’s contract, at a total contract price of \$489.4 million, is for 30,000 ventilators to be delivered to the Strategic National Stockpile by the end of August 2020
- The **Food and Drug Administration** is “facilitating imports of drugs to potentially treat Covid-19,” the regulatory agency said in [post](#) on its website Tuesday. The FDA said it is also working to protect Americans by monitoring the quality of drugs shipped to the U.S.
- The **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention** is considering relaxing work restriction guidance for people who have been exposed to the coronavirus but are asymptomatic, [the Associated Press reported](#), as the White House eyes ways to restart the economy.
  - The proposed guidance applies to people who work in critical jobs and do not have symptoms of the virus. They could return to work if their temperature is taken twice a day and they wear a face mask, according to the draft guidelines, the AP reported.
- **CMS Administrator Seema Verma** says \$64 billion in aid will go to health care system this week alone.
  - Health care providers said most important thing is to get dollars out as quickly as possible, Verma says at White House briefing
  - Verma says \$30 billion of that money will be grants with no strings attached
- **Acting Navy Secretary Thomas Modly** resigned Tuesday after an uproar over his decision to remove -- and then ridicule -- the commander of a U.S. aircraft carrier who demanded that the Pentagon do more to stop a coronavirus outbreak spreading through his ship.
- **FEMA** will issue a temporary rule to allocate “certain scarce or threatened materials” for domestic use so that they are not exported from the U.S. without approval by the agency.
  - Rule covers five types of personal protective equipment, including N95 filtering facepiece respirators, PPE surgical masks and PPE gloves or surgical gloves, according to a [statement](#)
- The **DEA** is increasing its controlled substances quotas for drugmakers for use in treating Covid-19 patients, the agency says in a statement.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- Quotas will be increased by 15% for substances including, fentanyl, morphine, hydromorphone, codeine, ephedrine, pseudoephedrine, and other substances essential to their production: [statement](#)
  - DEA will also approve increases in imports of medications for patients on ventilators
- **Bank of America CEO Brian Moynihan** says the **lender** is receiving several thousand applications an hour for the ~\$349b federal pot of relief loans for small businesses hurt by the pandemic.
  - **Wells Fargo CEO Charles Scharf**, also speaking via video at White House event on the SBA program, says his bank has provided over 750k fee waivers
  - **Visa CEO Al Kelly** says waiving monthly fees for certain clients
  - **Citigroup CEO Mike Corbat** says bank has originated \$500m worth of loans
  - President Trump says he may meet with banks in a month or two at White House
  - SBA chief says about 3.2k banks are participating in the Paycheck Protection Program
- **Energy Information Administration** to start publishing weekly estimate of oil storage capacity utilization as part of Weekly Petroleum Status Report release, according to Senator [Lisa Murkowski](#), chairman of Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.
  - “The timely collection and analysis of data related to petroleum storage will help the U.S. energy industry better assess market conditions, and provide a measure of certainty during these unprecedented times,” Murkowski said in release
- **U.S. and U.K.** say there is a growing use of Covid-19 related themes by malicious cyber actors while a surge in teleworking during the pandemic has increased the use of vulnerable services.
  - The cyber attacks may masquerade as trusted entities and are using a variety of ransomware and malware, according to a [statement](#)
- **Immigration and Customs Enforcement** told congressional staff Tuesday that it’s reviewing cases of individuals in detention who may be vulnerable to the coronavirus, following repeated calls from lawmakers to release detainees.
  - The agency, in an email obtained by CNN, told the congressional staff that it has instructed its field offices to "further assess and consider for release certain individuals deemed to be at greater risk of exposure, consistent with CDC guidelines, reviewing cases of individuals 60 years old and older, as well as those who are pregnant.”



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- **Dr. Anthony Fauci**, the head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said, "It's going to be a bad week for deaths."
  - Speaking on Fox News, Fauci said in New York there is a decrease in hospitalizations, admissions to intensive care and intubations, but warned the increase of deaths is "sobering."
  - "The number of deaths on a given day continues to increase, at the same time — seemingly paradoxically, but not — we're saying that we are starting to see some glimmers of hope because the deaths generally lag by a couple of weeks behind what's fueling the outbreak," Fauci said.
- **Dr. Deborah Birx**, the White House coronavirus response coordinator, said officials are looking at areas in the United States where mitigation efforts seem to be working to determine if the social distancing guidelines currently in place [could be relaxed at the end of April](#).
  - "We're doing a series of clear investigations of what happened in Washington and L.A. and what does that mean and how you keep the number of cases down," Birx said today during an appearance on ABC's "Good Morning America."
- **Birx** also said officials expect to roll out an antibody test in the next 10 to 14 days "so we can really tell how many Americans were asymptomatic and infected."
  - "This makes a big difference in really understanding who can go back to work and how they can go back to work, so all of those pieces need to come together over the next couple of weeks," Birx told ABC's George Stephanopoulos.
- More than 1,000 **federal employees** who provide medical care for ailing veterans have tested positive for the novel coronavirus, Task & Purpose reported Tuesday.
  - The figure is likely to ramp up scrutiny of working conditions for medical personnel at the Department of Veterans Affairs, as the department's medical facilities are increasingly tasked with treating military veteran patients for covid-19.
- The **US Food and Drug Administration** will take "appropriate action against firms making false claims or marketing" coronavirus tests, according to a news release from FDA Commissioner Dr. Stephen Hahn.
  - As of Tuesday, [only one Emergency Use Authorization](#) has been issued by the FDA for a serological test for coronavirus. The test is intended only for clinical laboratory use.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- “The **USNS Comfort** is accepting trauma, emergency and urgent care patients without regard to their Covid-19 status and has treated 58 patients to date,” the **Pentagon** says in its daily update on its virus response.
  - Army field hospitals in Seattle have 250 beds and are ready to accept patients; hospital ship Mercy in Los Angeles has 11 beds occupied; Navy facilities in New Orleans have treated 19 patient
- **Community health centers** are receiving more than \$1.3b to prevent, diagnose, and treat COVID-19, according to **HHS**.
  - The money will be divided among about 1,300 centers and can be used to help them maintain or increase capacity and staffing: HHS
- **The COVID-19 High Performance Computing Consortium**, an [initiative announced](#) by the White House and IBM last month, has received 35 proposals to date from researchers whose work could be conducted more quickly with the help of ultra-fast computers. Those proposals focus on studying the protein structure of the virus; identifying sites where molecules can bind to coronavirus cells; and forecasting the spread of the virus
- **FDA** is working with companies, hospitals, academic centers, and investigators conducting clinical trials to adjust to these challenges. Here, FDA answers questions about how clinical trials may change during the COVID-19 pandemic to protect the safety of trial participants. ([HERE](#))
- As a result of the [COVID-19 pandemic](#), the **FDA** released a guidance document, [Temporary Policy Regarding Enforcement of 21 CFR Part 118 \(the Egg Safety Rule\) During the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#) to provide producers of shell eggs that normally would be sent to facilities for further processing the flexibility to sell their eggs for distribution to retail locations, such as supermarkets, when certain conditions are present. ([HERE](#))
- **HUD** posted [award amounts](#) for the Housing Opportunities for Persons With AIDS (HOPWA) supplemental grant funds provided under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In the coming days, HOPWA grantees will receive award letters that will include the more information and next steps regarding implementation of the CARES Act funds.
- DOT today issued a final order establishing parameters for implementing the authority granted to the Secretary of Transportation by Sections 4005 and 4114(b) of the Coronavirus Aid, Recovery, and Economic Security Act. ([HERE](#))



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

### Capitol Hill

- The **top Democrats in Congress** Wednesday proposed pushing the next round of economic stimulus to \$500 billion, double what the Trump administration and GOP leaders are seeking.
- **Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin** asked **Congress** Tuesday to add \$250 billion to a program for small businesses, but House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer said in a [statement](#) Wednesday that they also want \$100 billion for hospitals and \$150 billion for state and local governments. Democrats are also calling for a 15% increase in nutrition assistance for the needy.
  - The next stimulus package “must provide transformational relief as the American people weather this assault on their lives and livelihoods,” the Democratic leaders said. “The American people need to know that their government is there for them in their time of great need.”
- The **Democrats’ counteroffer** could complicate an attempt by the administration and Senate Majority Leader [Mitch McConnell](#) to approve additional funds by the end of the week for the \$350 billion Paycheck Protection Program for small companies. **Republican Senator Marco Rubio** said on Twitter that McConnell took a procedural step to have the \$250 billion in additional aid passed by a voice vote on Thursday, which wouldn’t require most lawmakers to return to Washington.
- **Mnuchin** on Wednesday said he still hopes Congress will approve the additional funds quickly.
  - “I want to assure all small businesses out there, we will not run out of money,” Mnuchin said in a CNBC interview. “We hope they pass this tomorrow and Friday. And we want to assure everybody, if you don’t get a loan next week, you’ll get a loan next week or the following week. The money will be there.”
- **Mnuchin** said previously that he’d spoken with Pelosi and Schumer as well as McConnell and House GOP leader [Kevin McCarthy](#) about quickly securing the money.
- **Pelosi** said Tuesday she supported providing additional funding but didn’t commit to seeking quick approval without additional conditions. The speaker is scheduled to hold conference call with House Democrats and Vice President Mike Pence at 1 p.m. Wednesday.
- Meanwhile, **Senate Small Business Chairman Marco Rubio** (R-Fla.) said that fears the federal emergency small business loan program will run out of money is “creating tremendous anxiety.” Rubio said he’s working with the Treasury Department to make a



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

formal request for more funds as soon as possible and with leadership to fast track a vote.

- **Democrats** want \$250b in small business aid, with \$125b channeled through community-based financial institutions that serve farmers, family, women, minority and veteran-owned companies, House Speaker [Nancy Pelosi](#) and Senate Democratic leader [Chuck Schumer](#) say in joint statement.
  - Democratic leaders want \$100b for hospitals, community health centers and health systems, incl. funding for production and distribution of national rapid testing and personal protective equipment
  - Also seeking \$150b for state, local govts to manage crisis, mitigate lost revenue
  - Pelosi, Schumer call for 15% increase to maximum food assistance benefit
- **House Speaker Nancy Pelosi** told her colleagues in conference calls Tuesday the House may have to move this week on the small business loan package requested by the Trump administration, sources on the calls said.
  - Another source said **Pelosi** is making clear she is willing to move forward this week on the package if she gets a deal with the administration, which wants \$250B for small business loans.
  - **Democrats** have made a number of requests to be included in this \$250 billion package, including protections for renters and minority business owners. It's still not clear what **Pelosi** will ultimately demand of the administration.
  - **Pelosi** has made clear this small business loan package is only an interim package, and they still to plan to move forward with another plan -- called **CARES 2** -- in the coming weeks.
- In addition to an extension of the **PPP** program, **Pelosi** also proposed including an extension of the expanded unemployment insurance and more direct payments to individuals. She has estimated the bill would cost at least \$1 trillion.
  - While there is support among Senate Democrats for expanding the Paycheck Protection Program's funds, they want assurances that the pool of lenders in the program is broad enough that small businesses aren't subjected to biases based on sex, race or other factors, according to a Senate Democratic aide. The aide added that community banks, microlenders and other sources should supplement the efforts of major banks.
- **House Democratic leaders** on Tuesday introduced a bill that would ban price gouging for items related to the coronavirus outbreak, The COVID-19 Price Gouging Prevention Act, unveiled during a pro forma session by Reps. Jan Schakowsky of Illinois, Frank



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

Pallone of New Jersey, David Cicilline of Rhode Island and Jerry Nadler of New York, among others, would empower the FTC and state attorneys general to fine sellers who use the emergency to "increase prices unreasonably." Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.) and Thom Tillis (R-N.C.) also introduced [two bills](#) recently that would let the FTC tackle price-gouging during emergencies

- **Democratic Sens. Ron Wyden and Ben Cardin** say small businesses that allow its workers to share in company ownership should be eligible for rescue loans under the new federal Paycheck Protection Program.
  - Senators urge SBA Administrator Jovita Carranza to act fast in resolving uncertainty around PPP and employee stock ownership plans
- **U.S. airports** have failed to adopt "basic mitigation protocols" to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, **Rep. Don Beyer (D-Va.)** [charged in a letter](#) to DHS on Tuesday. He said his constituents have reported that airports haven't enforced social distancing, checked travelers' temperatures, or provided protective equipment for staff.
- **Senate Finance Committee ranking member Ron Wyden** (D-Ore.) said he hopes to provide direct federal government payments to small businesses, similar to those being provided to individuals and families, in a fourth coronavirus relief package. "We're going to come out and push for direct cash assistance," Wyden said. "I think they ought to get a check for a modest amount," in addition to the bridge loan or grant aid already being provided, he said,
- **Senate Democrats** also pressed the White House to issue more guidance on the temporary expansion of unemployment benefits to provide additional technical support for states whose systems are overwhelmed by the amount of unemployment claims. The Labor Department "must do everything it can to assist states during this pandemic," Democrats say in a letter to Secretary Eugene Scalia
- **WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus** should resign "because he's definitely been politicized," **Republican Sen. Marco Rubio** tells Fox News, saying China has influence over group's leadership.
- **Oversight and Reform Committee Chairwoman Carolyn Maloney** (D-N.Y.) and **subcommittee Chairman Jamie Raskin** (D-Md.) asked acting Homeland Security Secretary Chad Wolf to reduce immigrant detainee populations amid the risk of a coronavirus outbreak at a detention facility. They [wrote](#) in a letter to Wolf on Tuesday: "The Department [of Homeland Security] cannot continue to drag its feet in response to this crisis. Now is the time to prevent an exponential increase in cases and deaths."



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- **Bipartisan group of senators** ask Agriculture Dept. to allocate additional funds to biofuel industry amid coronavirus pandemic.
  - **Sens. Chuck Grassley, Tammy Duckworth** among lawmakers seeking additional funds through the Commodity Credit Corporation in [letter](#) to Agriculture Sec. Sonny Perdue
- **House Administration Chairwoman Zoe Lofgren (D-Calif.)** on Tuesday [echoed a sentiment](#) from the National Association of Secretaries of State and her panel's top Republican to remove strings from federal election grant funding for dealing with the coronavirus.
- **Sen. Tammy Baldwin (D-Wis.)** is pressing the Small Business Administration to clarify farmers' eligibility for Economic Injury Disaster Loans, and to allow ag producers seeking aid through the Paycheck Protection Program to use alternative calculations rather than payroll costs to determine the size of their loans.
  - "Many sole-proprietors do not pay themselves an income," [Baldwin wrote in a letter to Administrator Jovita Carranza on Tuesday.](#) "Additionally, because of the unique circumstances of agricultural production, basing the PPP loan size on a farm's payroll costs will likely yield loans that are far smaller than needed."
- **A bipartisan group of lawmakers** introduce [legislation](#) that would provide \$3 billion to buy oil to fill the strategic petroleum reserve with domestic crude oil.
  - **Sen. John Hoeven**, along with **Reps. Lizzie Fletcher** and **Michael Burgess**, introduced the bill
- **Sen. Kamala Harris** called for an "immediate suspension of credit card interest, fees, and penalties for the duration of this crisis" on Twitter.
- **Congressional leaders** were urged to include at least \$12.5 billion in stimulus funding to help people struggling to pay their water and sewer bills. **Pelosi** already has indicated she supports a bill to help families who can't afford to pay water and sewer bills. Democrats and a group of environmental, social justice, and labor groups wrote separate letters to congressional leaders seeking assistance for local water and sewage utilities that are losing revenue from suspending shutoffs and forgiving debts
- **Bipartisan leadership of the House Problem Solvers Caucus**, made up of 25 Democrats and 25 Republicans, called on Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-Calif.) and House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy (R-Calif.), to consider remote options for lawmakers, including voting by telephone, video conference, or voting machines in district offices.
- **Democratic Sens. Mazie Hirono** (Hawaii), **Dick Durbin** (Ill.), **Kamala Harris** (Calif.) and **Bob Menendez** (N.J.) sent a [letter](#) to **Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg**, urging him to



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

stop the spread of false information about the coronavirus on Facebook's WhatsApp messaging service.

- "Facebook's failure to adopt these commonsense measures suggests an indifference to the problems on WhatsApp that is not only unacceptable, but dangerous," the senators wrote. They asked about the status of a new fact-checking feature being tested for WhatsApp and about what more Facebook is doing to stop misinformation.
- **Sens. Ed Markey (D-Mass.)** and **Blumenthal** sent a [letter](#) to Google CEO Sundar Pichai requesting information about the company's Covid-19 Community Mobility Reports, which follow consumers' smartphone data location information in more than 130 countries. "While we commend Google's efforts to assist in combating the coronavirus pandemic, we caution you against steps that risk undermining your users' privacy," they wrote. They asked whether Google is sharing the data with government, research or private sector partners, among other questions.
- **Sens. Amy Klobuchar (D-Minn.)** and **Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.)** along with nine other Democratic senators [wrote](#) to Attorney General William Barr and the Director of the Federal Bureau of Prisons Michael Carvajal urging the administration to use new authority under the most recent coronavirus economic stimulus package to waive phone calls and videoconferencing for prison inmates.

### *State/Local*

- **New York state** reported its single-largest daily increase in coronavirus deaths on Tuesday. Governor Andrew Cuomo said 5,489 people have died, up from 4,758 on Monday.
  - Despite the surge, there are signs that infection rates in New York may be plateauing. The 8,147 in new cases reported Tuesday is the third straight day below the peak of 10,841 hit on Friday. It's also below the 8,658 announced Monday.
- **New York City** needs fewer ventilators than initially projected, Mayor Bill de Blasio told reporters today during a press conference.
  - There has been a reduction in the number of new ventilators needed each day in New York City, he said, saying 100 or less new ventilators are needed each day this week, compared to 200-300 new ventilators that were needed each day last week.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- **California** has secured deals to acquire more than 200 million protective masks each month for medical workers combating the coronavirus, the state's Gov. Gavin Newsom said Tuesday.
- **California Gov. Gavin Newsom** announced that shipments of ventilators will arrive in hotspots in New York, New Jersey and Illinois as early as Tuesday night, as his state began flying a surplus of 500 ventilators to states in need.
- **North Carolina** is currently dealing with an “overwhelming crush” of unemployment claims, which are topping 400,000, due to the economic fallout tied to the coronavirus pandemic, the governor said Tuesday.
- **Famous chef José Andrés** has teamed up with **Nationals Park in Washington, DC**, to distribute thousands of meals to people in need during the coronavirus pandemic.
- **Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker** today announced the release of more than 60 people at the Department of Juvenile Justice and more than 1,100 low-risk prisoners at the Department of Corrections due to the coronavirus pandemic.
- **New Jersey Gov. Phil Murphy** again stressed the importance of staying at home during the coronavirus pandemic, after [he slammed “jackasses”](#) this week who aren’t practicing proper social distancing.
  - Murphy told residents to avoid holding family gatherings during Passover and Easter.

### *International*

- **Global health officials** continue to insist that medical-grade masks should be reserved for health-care workers, even as an increasing number of governments recommend the general public wear them to help slow the spread of coronavirus. “There is currently no evidence that wearing a mask, whether medical or other types, by healthy persons” could “prevent them from infection with respiratory viruses,” the WHO said in a report released yesterday. But countries are still advising people to wear masks
- **Italy** reported its fewest new coronavirus infections since March 13, as the government considers easing some containment measures in the coming weeks.
- A record number of people in the **U.K.** were reported to have died from the coronavirus in 24 hours, daily figures from the Department of Health and Social Care show.
- In **China**, authorities are using technology to track who is likely to be healthy -- and who poses a risk.
  - Residents are each assigned a color-coded QR code on their phones -- and that color correlates to what they're able to do. In Wuhan, even now the lockdown is

lifted, residents still need to produce a green QR code to leave their compounds. For those returning to work, they also need to produce a letter from their employer.

- To get into places such as restaurants, people need to show that QR code -- and only people with a green code will gain entry
- **Singapore** issued more than 7,000 written advisories to people not following safe distancing on the first day of new “circuit breaker” rules, the government said. Elevated measures took effect Tuesday as the city-state tries to curb the spread of coronavirus and a second wave of infections in the city-state.
  - The elevated measures include bans on public and private gatherings of any size by people who aren’t living together. The rules apply to private quarters and public spaces, according to a copy of a speech by health minister Gan Kim Yong
- **Hong Kong is [extending](#)** its social distancing measures to April 23 and adding beauty parlors and massage places to the list of venues that must close.
  - The city already bans public gatherings of more than four people. It previously closed venues such as gyms, bars and karaoke places, and it required restaurants to run at half capacity and space out tables.
  - Separately, all travelers arriving at the Hong Kong International Airport will be required to undergo coronavirus testing starting Wednesday.
- **Argentina's** nationwide quarantine will continue through April, Argentina's president Alberto Fernandez announced in a televised interview today.
- Local authorities in **Mumbai, India's financial** capital, have made masks mandatory for people in all public spaces as the megacity races to contain the fast-spreading coronavirus. Violators will face legal action, the order said.
  - Later in the day, the populous state of **Uttar Pradesh** in north India passed a similar order. Besides Chandigarh, no other city in the country has made masks compulsory.
- **E.U. finance ministers** trying to reach an emergency deal to come to the rescue of the pandemic-hit European economy broke up a meeting Wednesday after 16 hours without coming to an agreement, signaling deep divides that could pose a broader threat to the future of the bloc.
  - The ministers had been charged with coming up with recommendations for how to bolster countries’ relief efforts with the full collective firepower of some of the world’s wealthiest economies.
- **Western Australia** is buying hundreds of GPS ankle bracelets to use in the event individuals break mandated quarantine measures, the state’s premier announced Wednesday.
  - “A non-compliant quarantine or self-isolating person will have one of these devices fitted to monitor or restrict movements as part of our efforts to protect the



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

community,” Mark McGowan said, according to Australian Broadcasting Corp. “We hope we don’t need to use many of these devices however I don’t want to take any chances.”

### *Private Sector*

- **Starbucks** announced a commitment of \$10 million (USD) to establish the Starbucks Global Partner Emergency Relief Program, part of its ongoing efforts to support employees around the world impacted by COVID-19. The commitment marks the first time both company-operated and international licensed market store partners across Starbucks may access hardship grants. These one-time, direct relief grants will be made available to partners facing extreme hardship as a result of COVID-19 and help ensure that partners around the world have access to emergency support during this difficult time.
- A **collection of mental health and addiction treatment groups** called on the federal government to set aside \$38.5 billion in the next stimulus package for behavioral health organizations enrolled in Medicaid. The groups, led by the National Council for Behavioral Health and American Society of Addiction Medicine, want funds for community behavioral health organizations in the next coronavirus stimulus bill.
- The shutdown of laboratories on university campuses has put the future of the U.S. research enterprise at risk, several higher education groups including the **Association of Public and Land-grant Universities and Association of American Medical Colleges** told congressional leaders in a letter yesterday. The groups asked lawmakers to help maintain the research workforce until operations return to normal on most campuses and support the cost of ramping up work again when labs can resume operations.
- **The U.S. Chamber of Commerce** is calling for a greater focus on establishing a uniform, international approach to determine which businesses and industries should be deemed “essential” during the coronavirus pandemic. State and local governments in the U.S. have power to set their own restrictions on which businesses are spared from mandatory-closure orders, in some cases making decisions based on nonbinding guidance the Department of Homeland Security issued last month.
- **DuPont** this week will deliver 450,000 Tyvek coverall suits used as protective equipment for health-care workers to the federal government, part of an order of as many as 4.5m units, the Health and Human Services Dept says.
  - **HHS** expects 2.25m suits in the next five weeks
- **JetBlue** appears to be the first US airline to use new rules finalized yesterday that allow airlines operating at multiple airports in the same city to cut back on flights.



## COVID-19 4/8 UPDATE

- **Tesla** is telling staff to brace for pay cuts and furloughs as the Covid-19 pandemic disrupts operations and cripples demand.
  - Starting next Monday, US employees at the electric car company who hold director and vice president-level roles and above will see pay reductions of 20% to 30%, and "everyone else" will receive a pay cut of 10%, according to an internal email obtained by CNN Business.
- **Dick's Sporting Goods** is furloughing a "significant number" of its roughly 40,000 employees beginning Sunday. Affected employees will still continue to receive their benefits.
  - Dick's said in a regulatory filing that because of coronavirus, it's "increasingly evident" that its more than 800 stores aren't going to reopen anytime soon.
- **Jack Dorsey**, the CEO of Twitter and the digital payments company Square, is dedicating \$1 billion — more than a quarter of his wealth — to charitable causes, with the most immediate focus on global coronavirus relief.